(b) the amount realised in foreign exchange for such exports in 1992-93;

(c) whether there has been any price manipulation by foreign buyers in 1992-93; and

(d) what safeguards Government propose to extent to this thrust area of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Information is as under :

Quantity : 191186 Tonnes

Value : Rs. 1668.17 crores

Source : MPEDA, Kochi.

(c) Government has not received any such reports.

(d) The export prices are determined by the global demand and supply and the Government do not intend to intervene directly in the market.

Curbs on Foreign Tours of Officials for Trade Promotion

710. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has advised the ITPO (Indian Trade Promotion Organisation) to go slow on sending senior officers on foreign tours;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairman and other senior officers routinely attend inauguration of all foreign fairs abroad, where India is only a routine participant;

(c) what were the contentions set by Chairman TFAI in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that good conventions raising the dignity of nation are followed in the matter of foreign visits by senior officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Chairman of erstwhile Trade Fair Authority of India used to visit such fairs where his presence was considered to be necessary in the interest of the Government and the Organisation.

(d) All the visits of Chairman and Managing Director are approved by the Government keeping in view all relevant factors.

Cultivation of Tea in Orissa

711. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the traditional and non-traditional States growing tea which are proposed to be assisted in tea growing in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Orissa has shown significant tea plantation in non-traditional areas; and

(c) what are the details of steps being taken towards cultivation of tea, creation of more tea gardens, special assistance to tea growers and diversification of areas under tea cultivation in Orissa?